



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Names Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino Recipient of Small Business Leadership Award

Award named for John C. Rennie, founder of Pacer Systems

BOSTON-- Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino has been named the recipient of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2003 John C. Rennie Leadership Award because of his work on behalf of small businesses in the city of Boston.

Mayor Menino established the city's Office of Business Development in 1998 to provide entrepreneurs and existing businesses in Boston's neighborhoods access to financial and technical assistance resources. This office supports the work of the Boston Main Streets program, which is bringing new life to 20 neighborhood business districts, as well as the Boston Empowerment Center in Boston's Empowerment Zone, which delivers programs and services to small businesses. ReStore Boston, another program initiated by the mayor, is a nationally-acclaimed revitalization project which helps neighborhood businesses with storefront improvements.

In announcing Mayor Menino's selection, Massachusetts SBA Director Elaine Guiney said, "John Rennie was an outstanding civic and business leader in Massachusetts. He was a businessman who believed strongly that his success obligated him to make a significant contribution to his community. We are pleased to have established this annual award in his honor and to have selected Mayor Menino as the 2003 recipient."

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Mayor Menino will be honored at an awards luncheon at the Boston Marriott Copley Place at noontime on September 12, 2003. The Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, Holly Safford, President of The Catered Affair in Hingham, will be recognized along with other small business advocates from throughout the commonwealth. The event is open to the public and those interested in attending should contact Christine Carter at SBA at 617-565-5560.

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The U.S. Small Business Administration, established in 1953, provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans worth more than \$45 billion, the SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Last year, the SBA offered management and technical assistance to more than one million small business owners. The SBA also plays a major role in the government's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans to both homeowners and businesses. For information on SBA programs, call 617-565-5590.